Application no. 09/581,949

Amendment dated: January 5, 2004

Reply to office action dated: October 3, 2003

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

- 1. (Original) A method for classifying data, the method comprising the steps of: receiving input data for classification; defining one or more transformations of the input data; applying energy minimization to the one or more transforms of the input data; producing at least a rate of change in energy in response to energy minimization; and classifying the input data using at least the stress rate value.
- 2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of applying energy minimization comprises using individual differences multidimensional scaling applied to the input data.
- 3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of applying energy minimization comprises using a finite element method analysis applied to the input data.
- 4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of applying energy minimization comprises using simulated annealing applied to the input data.
- 5. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps of producing a source space output and classifying the input data using the source space output.
- 6. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps of producing a common space output and classifying the input data using the common space output.

Claims 7 - 43. (Cancelled)